

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 04356 01 OF 02 021644Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
-----000332 021701Z /43
P 021524Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9490

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 4356

DEPARTMENT PASS AF/C KATES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CG, PGOV
SUBJECT: ZAIRE BACKGROUND NOTES

REF: DRAFT ZAIRE BACKGROUND NOTES TRANSMITTED 4/30/78

1. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED EMBASSY CHANGES AND COMMENTS ON DRAFT
ZAIRE BACKGROUND NOTES.

1. PAGE 1 "LITERACY": CHANGE TO, "20 PERCENT (1976)"
2. PAGE 2 "DATE OF CONSTITUTION": CHANGE TO "AMENDED 1974,
REVISED 1978."
"BRANCHES": CHANGE, "JUDICIARY" TO "JUDICIAL COUNCIL"
"ADMINISTRATIVE SUBDIVISIONS": CHANGE TO, "8 REGIONS (PROVINCES)
AND ONE URBAN REGION (KINSHASA)"
"ECONOMY": CHANGE TO, "GDP" \$3.3 BILLION(1976 CURRENT PRICES),
\$2.074 (QOUUN 1970 PRICES)"
"ANNUAL GROWTH RATE" - 2 PERCENT (1977 CONSTANT 1970 PRICES)" PER
CAPITA INCOME" \$132 (1976).
"PER CAPITA GROWTH RATE" - PERCENT
3. PAGE 3 "TRADE": FOLLOWING TEXTILES ADD, "AND FOOD"
"OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE": 1 ZAIRE EQUALS 1 SDR (EQUALS
\$1.20 APPROX.)
"MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS": ADD; "INTERNATIONAL
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COFFEE ORGANIZATION (ICO) INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL
(ITC); ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT LAKE COUNTRIES (CEPGL)"

4. PAGE 4 "PEOPLE": SECOND PARAGRAPH: CHANGE TO READ,
"FROM AMONG THE MORE THAN 200 ETHNIC GROUPS IN ZAIRE THERE
ARE THREE MAJOR 'TRIBES' AND ONE NOTEWORTHY RACIAL SUBGROUP.
THE TRIBES ARE THE BAKONGO, BALUBA AND BALUNDA. THE PYGMIES
ARE THE PROMINENT SUBRACE. THE BAKONGO LIVE IN WESTERN

ZAIRE IN THE REGIONS OF BAS ZAIRE AND PARTS OF BANDUNDU.
THE BALUBA LIVE PRIMARILY IN WESTERN KASAI AND NORTHERN
SHABA WHILE THE LUNDA ARE FOUND IN SHABA. THE PYGMY
PEOPLE ARE SCATTERED, LIVING FORESTS IN EAST CENTRAL
ZAIRE."

"LANGUAGES": SUBSTITUTE, "OFFICIAL LANGUAGES" FOR "LINGUA
FRANCA"

5. PAGE PARAGRAPH 2

SENTENCE 1 - CHANGE TO READ, "ABOUT HALF OF THE ZAIRIAN
POPULATION IS CHRISTIAN."

6. PAGE 8 PARAGRAPH 1

SENTENCE 3 - BEGIN SENTENCE WITH, "SUBSEQUENTLY, STANLEY..."

7. PAGE 9 PARAGRAPH 1

SENTENCES 1 AND 3 - CHANGE TO READ, "LUMUMBA'S RELATIONS
WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND PRESIDENT KASAVUBU DETERIORATED RAPIDLY."

...

"LUMUMBA REJECTED THIS DISMISSAL AND IN TURN DISMISSED KASAVUBU."

PARAGRAPH 2

SENTENCE 2 - CHANGE, "HELD OUT IN" TO "HELD OUT AT"

8. PAGE 10 PARAGRAPH 3

SENTENCE 2 - CHANGE, "CAPTURED" TO "LIBERATED"

SENTENCE 3 - CHANGE TO READ, "BETWEEN NOVEMBER 24 AND 28 THIS..."

9. PAGE 11

"RETURN OF MOBUTU AND SECURITY"

PARAGRAPH 1

SENTENCE 3 ADD, "THE" BEFORE ELECTIONS.

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PARAGRAPH 2

SENTENCE 3 - CHANGE TO READ, "AFTER SEVERAL DIFFICULT
MONTHS, THE MERCENARIES AND THEIR KATANGAN ALLIES
WITHDREW INTO RWANDA UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE ARMY."

10. PAGE 14

"GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS"

PARAGRAPH 1

SENTENCE 3 - CHANGE TO, "BY VIRTUE OF THE AUGUST 1974
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS" TO READ; "BY
VIRTUE OF THE AUGUST 1974 CONSTITUTION."

PARAGRAPH 2

SENTENCE 2 - CHANGE TO READ, "AS OF 1978, THE
PRESIDENT IS ELECTED FOR A 7 YEAR TERM WITH NO LIMIT ON
THE NUMBER OF TERMS."

PARAGRAPH 3

SENTENCE 1 - STRIKE "JUDICIAL COUNCILS."

11. PAGE 15

FIRST LINE CHANGE, 18 TO 24 AND 30 TO 36.

SECOND LINE ADD, "AND URBAN" AFTER REGIONAL AND CHANGE
"ADMINISTRATORS" TO "GOVERNORS"

THIRD LINE CHANGE, "8" TO "9", "REGION" TO "SUBDIVISIONS",
AND STRIKE "JUDGES."

PARAGRAPH 1 - STRIKE THIRD SENTENCE.

SENTENCE 6 - ADD "AND APPROVED BY THE PARTY
CONGRESS" AFTER "POLITICAL BUREAU"

LAST SENTENCE - STRIKE ENTIRE SENTENCE

12. PAGE 16

PARAGRAPH 1 -

SENTENCE 1 - ADD, "WITH 272 MEMBERS" AFTER "THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL" AND INSERT, "AND
THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL" AFTER POLITICAL BUREAU.

SENTENCE 2 - CHANGE, "THE COUNCIL" TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL"

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ACTION AF-10

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P 021530Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9491

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 4356

DEPARTMENT PASS AF/C KATES

SENTENCE 4 - CHANGE TO READ, "FORMERLY, THE PEOPLE
APPROVED OR REJECTED COUNCIL CANDIDATES PICKED BY THE POLITICAL
BUREAU."

SENTENCE 6 - CHANGE TO READ, "THE PRESIDENT OF THE
COUNCIL IS APPOINTED FROM AMONG THE ELECTED MEMBERS BY THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC."

SENTENCE 7 - STRIKE ENTIRE SENTENCE

SENTENCE 8 - STRIKE ENTIRE SENTENCE

PARAGRAPH 2

SENTENCE 1 - CHANGE TO READ, "THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS
OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE ADMINISTERED BY STATE COMMISSIONERS, WHO
ARE RECOMMENDED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT.

"

PARAGRAPH 3

SENTENCE 2 - CHANGE, "AUGUST 1974" TO "FEBRUARY 1978."

SENTENCE 4 - CHANGE, "AS OF" TO "IN" AND STRIKE "30."

13. PAGE 19

LINE 7 - FOLLOWING "COSTS" ADD "AND CLOSURE OF THE
BENEGUELA RAILROAD THROUGH ANGOLA, THE"... MAJOR AVENUE..."

PARAGRAPH 1 -

SENTENCE 2 - CHANGE TO READ, "THESE MEASURES INCLUDED

TRANSFER OF MOST COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES FROM FOREIGN TO ZAIRIAN OWNERSHIP. HOWEVER, MOST AMERICAN OWNED BUSINESSES, IN PARTICULAR THOSE COVERED BY THE 1969 INVESTMENT CODE, WERE SPARED."

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SENTENCE 3 - STRIKE "SOME"

PARAGRAPH 2

SENTENCE 4 - AFTER "NATIONALIZED" INSERT "(RADICALIZED)"

SENTENCE 5 - AT THE END OF SENTENCE AFTER "SYNDICATED LOAN", ADD "AS A SUBSTITUTE TO RESCHEDULING ZAIRE'S OUTSTANDING DEBT PAYMENTS."

SENTENCE 6 - CHANGE TO READ, "THISSLOAN, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED IN MID-1978 FOR ABOUT \$220 MILLION, WILL BE USED TO PAY FOR IMPORTS OF ESSENTIAL CAPITAL GOODS AND REPLACEMENT PARTS TO HELP ZAIRE'S ECONOMY RECOVER."

14. PAGE 20

PARAGRAPH 3

SENTENCE 2 AND 3 - CHANGE TO READ, "ON SHORE OIL CONCESSIONS ARE ALSO BEING EXPLORED, WITH ONE POSSIBLE COMMERCIALLY VIABLE STRIKE HAVING BEEN MADE TO DATE. DEPOSITS OF METHANE GAS IN LAKE KIVU ARE ALSO UNDER EXPLORATION."

15. PAGE 21

PARAGRAPH 1 - ADD AFTER LAST SENTENCE, "HOWEVER, CONTINUING SHORTAGES OF SPARE PARTS, RAW MATERIALS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE HAVE KEPT LOCAL INDUSTRY FROM MAKING THIS DEMAND."

PARAGRAPH 2 - SENTENCE 1 - INSERT "CONTINUING" BEFORE "ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES".

LAST SENTENCE - AFTER END OF THIS STENCE ADD, "REPATRIATION OF PROFITS FROM BUSINESS OPERATIONS IN ZAIRE HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE FOR SEVERAL YEARS DUE TO THE COUNTRY'S CHRONIC FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTFALL."

16. PAGE 22

PARAGRAPH 1

SENTENCE 1 - CHANGE "LACKING NORMAL RELATIONS WITH" TO "WITH THE PROMINENT EXCEPTION OF"

PARAGRAPH 2

SENTENCE 2 - CHANGE "DURING" AFTER SAUDI ARABIA TO "IN RESISTING" AND CHANGE "SHABA PROVINCE" TO "SHABA REGION."

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PARAGRAPH 3 STRIKE SENTENCE 2

SENTENCE 1 - CHANGE "NON-GOVERNING" TO "NON SELF-GOVERNING."

17. PAGE 23

SECOND LINE - CHANGE, "LUANDA" TO "ANGOLA"

PARAGRAPH 1

SENTENCE 2 - INSERT, "MOST" BEFORE "COMMUNIST COUNTRIES."

PARAGRAPH 2

SENTENCE 2 - CHANGE TO READ, "IN EARLY 1978 IT
AGREED TO JOIN ZAMBIA AND PERU IN AN EFFORT TO RAISE THE DEPRESSED
PRICE OF POPPER BY REDUCING PRODUCTION BY 15 PERCENT."

PARAGRAPH 3

SENTENCE 2 - ADD AT THE END OF SECOND SENTENCE,
"AND OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY."

18. PAGE 24

LINE 5 - ADD AT THE END OF FIFTH LINE, "TO RETURN TO
RECLAIM THEIR PROPERTIES."

PARAGRAPH 1 - LAST STENCE - INSERT, "TRANSMISSION
LINE" AFTER, "HIGH TENSION"

19. PAGE 26

SECOND LINE - CHANGE "COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY" TO DEPUTY
CHIEF OF MISSION."

FIFTH LINE - CORRECT SPELLING: "DEMARCKEN".

NOTE: CHIEF ZAMISH TO DEPART POST 20 JULY 78 TO BE REPLACED
5 JULY 78 BY COL. HARVEY MILLER U.S.A. PRINCIPAL OFFICER
LUBUMBASHI AND AID DIRECTOR LEAVING JUNE 1978. REPLACEMENTS NOT
YET OFFICIALLY NAMED. SUGGEST ADDITION OF AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE
(JOHN WILLIAMS TO BE REPLACED BY ROBERT JOHNSON AUGUST 1978) AND
DEFENSE ATTACHE (COL. WILLIAM GRIFFIN, USAF).

20. PAGE 27

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT, NO LONGER TRUE AS OF NOVEMBER, 1977.
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Message Attributes

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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAIRE BACKGROUND NOTES
TAGS: PGOV, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
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